

STUDY GUIDE

Acts 13:1-52

“The Glorious Gospel that Divides”

- 1) Where do we see instances of division in our world today? What are the causes of those divisions?

- 2) What is the main business of the church? What are the consequences of drifting away from that business? Discuss the outcomes – positive and negative - when the church is focused on its main business.

- 3) What did the church at Antioch do when the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas into the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel “*to the end of the earth*”? Why was this process necessary?

- 4) Paul confronted a false prophet who opposed him when he was proclaiming the gospel - by exposing his deceit and striking him blind. Why is it so important that we expose those who oppose truth?

- 5) The response to Paul’s gospel sermon in Pisidia Antioch was divided. Why did Paul close his message with a harsh warning? What was the response after his warning?

- 6) In the resultant conflict and opposition and persecution we read that, “*The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*” Discuss of how we as a church can respond in the same way.

- 7) Discuss the meaning and implications (personally and for the church) of the following statements:

When we proclaim the glorious grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ we engage the enemy of our souls in spiritual combat. When we do the Lord’s work, we should expect and be prepared for satanic opposition that will be done through those who are deceived by the devil - and the battle with evil against the gospel is not limited those who we perceive as our enemy.

*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing. **Zephaniah 3:17***